

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

June 3, 1982 Page 9

## Striving for excellence

### Furlong top golf competitor after recovering from back injury



Shirley Furlong

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Sports Editor

Texas A&M junior Shirley Furlong has mapped out her future with the same precision that permeates her golf game.

Drive by drive, putt by putt and chip by chip, Furlong has experienced what she classifies as a rewarding career.

Even a possible career-ending back injury during her sophomore year didn't drop Furlong's attitude below par. In fact, the injury has directed her career along a more certain course than ever — a course which she believes has an excellent chance of climaxing with a spot on the LPGA tour.

But before she attempts to

jump into a professional tour, Furlong will finish her final season with the Aggie women's golf squad. After her performance during the past fall and spring seasons, when she led Texas A&M to the state championship while capturing individual medalist honors, Furlong can't help being excited about the 1982-83 season and what lies beyond.

"Every year, I set goals for myself to reach," Furlong said Wednesday in a telephone interview from her home in San Antonio. "One of my goals this year was to make all-America this year, which I did. Winning the state tourney was a big boost for me, and I'm happy with the way the team played, too."

When Furlong entered Texas A&M as a freshman in the fall of 1978, she came off a third-place finish in the state 4A golf championships, leading East Central

*"Winning the state tourney was a big boost for me, and I'm happy with the way the team played, too." — Texas A&M junior golfer Shirley Furlong.*

High School to third place overall. But, she says modestly: "I never really set the world on

fire."

During the state tournament in the spring of her freshman year, in which she earned all-state honors, Furlong encountered her first back problems. The injury resulted in her being red-shirted, or held out of competing and practicing with the Aggies, the following season.

"It started out with muscle spasms during that tournament," Furlong said. "I struggled around with that, and played during the summer, but my back was OK. Even though I played in some tourneys, my back didn't hurt me."

When the summer ended, however, Furlong's back discomforts returned.

"I was playing in a tournament in September, and I injured my back on the 18th hole," she said. "I was really swinging well, so I really wanted to rip the ball. Well, I really ripped it. The muscle spasms started right after that."

As it turned out, Furlong had torn several muscles in her back. But she said she's thankful that the injury didn't more severely damage her back.

"I was really lucky that it wasn't pinched nerves or disc problems or something," she said. "After that, I just tried coming back from the injury too early. My doctor told me that I had to throw in the towel for about six months, with no physical activity. About all I could do was walk to class."

Furlong spent two separate weeks in the hospital, in traction, during September and October of 1979.

"I started trying to play again too soon," Furlong said, "and I

just couldn't handle the twisting motion involved in swinging. The doctors told me I needed more time to recover from the injury."

"It was very painful. It's not like when you injure your arm or leg and you can elevate it." Furlong said the injury and redshirt year, which allowed her to play her sophomore year of eligibility during 1980-81 and her junior year during the past fall and spring, may have been a blessing in disguise.

"So many college players finish their eligibility, and pass up finishing their degree work to play professional golf," she said. "But this way, I'll be graduating in May and then I can go on to try to play on the LPGA tour."

Furlong said that when she returned to competition with the Aggies after recovering from the injury, her on-the-

which ends when the Aggies compete in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national tournament June 16-19 at Ohio State University, has by far been the exclamation point of her career. She cited the team's unity as a factor in its successes, which include a fifth-place finish at the NCAA tournament last week at Stanford University.

"This year it seems like the wheels started turning again for me," she said. "The team was really pretty close this year. Since golf is such an individual sport, you want to do your best and play as well as you can for the team, too. As long as you go out and play your best, you'll always help the team."

"When you make a mistake, you can't say someone else made it. You have to keep that in mind."

The Aggies' best performance this season, Furlong said, came when they won the state tournament over TCU in April. In that competition, Texas A&M trailed the Horned Frogs by one shot entering the final round, but Furlong's 68 vaulted the team to the title.

Furlong also erased a seven-shot tournament lead by teammate Monica Welch to win individual honors. Welch, who has finished her eligibility, shot a final-round 76.

"The men's victory was such a factor for us," Furlong said. "When they won the Southwest Conference (earlier in April), we just went bananas. That was such an inspiration for us to go

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## Ashby-led offensive guides Astros past Montreal, 6-4

United Press International  
MONTREAL — The Houston Astros have been struggling and Alan Ashby hopes the battle is over.

Ashby drove in five runs Wednesday night with a two-run double and a three-run homer to power Houston to 6-4 victory over the Montreal Expos.

"We have been trying to talk ourselves out of something," said Ashby. "We know we are a better ballclub but it has been tough to take our start."

The Astros are 7½ games behind the Atlanta Braves in the National League West and Ashby feels more offense might help.

"We shouldn't have to scratch for runs anymore," said the Houston catcher, who

bats out of the No. 8 position.

Ashby doubled in two runs in the second to give Houston a 2-1 lead and the three-run homer made the score 6-2 in the sixth inning.

The five RBIs gives Ashby 24 for the season, two behind team leaders Jose Cruz and Phil Garner.

"Ashby's been struggling but he was due to break out," said Houston manager Bill Virdon.

Nolan Ryan, pitching with a groin injury, went the first seven innings and brought his record to 5-6 while Dave Smith, who gave up a solo homer to Andre Dawson in eighth inning, finished off the game.

The Houston righthander gave up four

hits, all in the first two innings, and that surprised him.

"I was really struggling out there on the mound and I'm really amazed I didn't give up any hits after the second inning."

The Expos stranded seven runners, five of them in the first two innings, and Montreal Manager Jim Fanning thought that was the problem.

"We could have scored a few more runs in the first two innings," said Fanning. "You have to get to Ryan early."

After Wednesday night's game, the Expos headed for a four-game road trip and Fanning hopes for something more like the 6-0 record from their last road trip.

# MSC FREE UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION 1ST SUMMER SESSION

THURSDAY  
JUNE 3  
8 A.M.-5 P.M.



2ND FLOOR  
MSC  
ROOM #212

COURSES OFFERED:

• **BASIC MECHANICS**

- LEARN TO DO YOUR OWN CAR REPAIRS, LUBRICATION, BRAKES, TUNE-UP ETC.
- MEETS MONDAYS 5:00-7:00 P.M.
- HELD ON CAMPUS
- INSTRUCTOR: TIM CLACKLEY
- 4 WEEKS \$10.00

• **DANCERISE**

- SHAPE UP WHILE LEARNING BALLET, JAZZ, FLOOR EXERCISES. FOR WOMEN ONLY.
- MEETS: SECTION A MONDAYS 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
SECTION B TUESDAYS 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
SECTION C WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
SECTION D THURSDAYS 6:00-7:00 P.M.
- HELD ON CAMPUS
- INSTRUCTOR: JULIA MASHBURN
- 4 WEEKS \$6.00

• **JITTERBUG**

- BEGIN WITH THE BASICS AND ADVANCE TO SPINS, TURNS, PRETZELS, AERIALS.
- MEETS: SECTION A SUNDAYS 5:00-6:30 P.M.  
SECTION B SUNDAYS 6:45-8:15 P.M.
- HELD ON CAMPUS
- INSTRUCTORS: MIKE AND SHARI McCARLEY
- 4 WEEKS \$8.00

• **BEGINNING C&W DANCE**

- WITH FORD & SANDRA TAYLOR
- CLASSES HELD AT THE TEXAS HALL OF FAME
- LEARN TO TWO-STEP, POLKA, WALTZ, COTTON-EYED JOE, SCHOTTISCHE ETC.
- MEETS TUESDAYS 6:30-7:45 P.M.
- 4 WEEKS \$12.00

• **ADVANCED C&W**

- WITH FORD & SANDRA TAYLOR
- CLASSES HELD AT THE TEXAS HALL OF FAME
- LEARN MANY ADVANCED MOVES FOR THE TWO-STEP, WALTZ, POLKA ETC.
- MEETS THURSDAYS 6:30-7:45 P.M.
- 4 WEEKS \$12.00

• **BEGINNING C&W DANCE**

- WITH KITTY SWOBODA AND JASON CLARK
- CLASSES HELD AT GRAHAM CENTRAL STATION
- LEARN TO TWO-STEP, POLKA, WALTZ, COTTON-EYED JOE, SCHOTTISCHE ETC.
- MEETS SUNDAYS 6:45-8:00 P.M.
- 4 WEEKS \$7.00

• **ADVANCED C&W**

- WITH KITTY SWOBODA AND JASON CLARK
- CLASSES HELD AT GRAHAM CENTRAL STATION
- LEARN THE DOUBLE TWO-STEP, THE TEXAS TEN-STEP AND MORE
- MEETS SUNDAYS 5:30-6:45 P.M.
- 4 WEEKS \$7.00

• **BARTENDING**

- AN INTRODUCTION TO BAR-TENDING
- MEETS MONDAY (A) 2-4:30 P.M.  
TUESDAY (B) 2-4:30 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY (C) 2-4:30 P.M.  
THURSDAY (D) 2-4:30 P.M.
- INSTRUCTOR HECTOR RIVERA
- 4 WEEKS — FEE \$12.00